



# ANZSCO 2321-11 Architect

South Australia  
April 2017

## Current labour market rating

Shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

No Shortage

## Comments

*Employers seeking to recently recruit qualified, skilled and experienced architects consistently reported difficulty filling vacancies during recruitment exercises. Less than half of the vacancies surveyed were filled with suitable applicants.*

## Survey results

- The businesses contacted for the survey were predominately architectural firms or practices and the majority of the vacancies required extensive experience in the industry.
- A survey of employers who had recently advertised for architects found that 43 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising. This compares with 90 per cent in last year's survey.
- Businesses surveyed attracted an average of 17.6 applicants per vacancy. The average number of applicants has fallen over consecutive years: 2015 (29), 2016 (18.4) and 2017 (17.6).
- The number of suitable applicants reduced from 4.2 in 2016 to 1.4 in this year's report. One surveyed business had a comparatively high number of applicants and suitable applicants.
- Contacts consistently advised the labour market currently lacks candidates with sufficient and suitable experience.
- Due to the low rate employers filled vacancies and the consistent difficulty reported by employers attempting to fill vacancies, the occupation is rated as being in shortage.

## Unsuitable applicants

- Lack of appropriate qualifications was identified as an issue for employers with only 42 per cent of applicants holding the qualification suitable for the employers' needs.
- Lack of experience and diversity of experience was a major issue for employers recruiting architects in South Australia. International candidates were not considered unless project experience in Australia was demonstrated.
- In some cases candidates were considered unsuitable because their technical skills did not match the job requirements of the employer (e.g. proficiency in Revit® software application).
- The majority of the vacancies surveyed required a broad range of skills, extensive experience and knowledge across the areas of design, documentation, project management and client liaison. The expectation of most employers was that candidates would be immediately productive in their roles.

## Demand and supply trends

- Demand for architects is influenced by the level of expected building activity. Most indicators suggest increased demand for the occupation.
- The total value of SA building approvals<sup>1</sup> increased by 14 per cent in 2016 compared with the previous calendar year.
- Disaggregated data showed a strong 25 per cent increase in non-residential building approvals compared with a modest increase in the value of residential building approvals of 3 per cent.
- The number of architectural services businesses in South Australia decreased from 712 at the end of the 2015 financial year to 692 at the end of the 2016 financial year<sup>2</sup>.
- The number of internet advertised vacancies has increased steadily each calendar year since 2013. A 10 per cent increase in internet advertised vacancies occurred in the 2016 calendar year compared with 2015<sup>3</sup>.
- Any person using the title 'architect' must be registered with the Architectural Practice Board of South Australia. Registration requires an appropriate qualification (generally a five year Master of Architecture degree), completion of practical experience, written examination and interview<sup>4</sup>.
- The most recent available data shows, as at 30 June 2015, there were 785 active registrations in South Australia, a slight fall from 2014. The number of registered architects has remained steady for a five year period.
- Full time employment outcomes for graduates with an Architectural bachelor degree improved to 70.2 per cent in 2015 from 57.8 per cent in 2014<sup>5</sup>.
- The numbers of students commencing and completing postgraduate degree courses in architecture increased in 2015 after decreases in both figures in 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0

<sup>2</sup> ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, ABS Cat. No. 8165.0

<sup>3</sup> Department of Employment, Vacancy Report, IVI Detailed Occupation Data – March 2006 onwards

<sup>4</sup> The Architectural Practice Board of South Australia, How to become an Architect

<sup>5</sup> Graduate Careers Australia, GradStats 2014, 2015.